



PATENT APPLICATION

#34
1-28-03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Jean-Louis BOYER et al.

Group Art Unit: 3641

Application No.: 09/101,508

Examiner: T. Chambers

Filed: September 30, 1998

Docket No.: 100983

For: PROGRAMMABLY TIMABLE PRIMING DEVICE

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REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

GROUP 3600

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In reply to the October 10, 2002 Office Action, the personal interview conducted on November 14, 2002, and the January 9, 2003 Notice of Non-Responsive Amendment, reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested. Claims 14-31 are pending.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' attorney by Examiner Chambers during the November 14, 2002 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Page 2 of the Notice of Non-Responsive Amendment states that the reply filed on November 26 is not fully responsive because it failed to include a complete or accurate record of the substance of the November 14, 2002 interview. As stated by the Examiner on page 3 of the Notice, the Applicants' record of the interview does not have to restate verbatim the statements made during the interview. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the Request for Reconsideration filed on November 26 provided a sufficient summary of the interview. However, in view of the Examiner's request, in the following paragraphs, Applicants provide an expanded summary of the substance personal interview. In addition,

Applicants submit that the comments in the November 26 filing did not contradict the Examiner's Summary. Rather, they supplemented it, as to restate what was said by the Examiner as a summary of the interview is unnecessary. The following paragraphs support the remarks set forth by the Examiner in the Interview Summary. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the Notice of Non-Responsive Amendment and issue a Notice of Allowance.

Claims 14-17, 19, 27, 28, 30 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Boucher, U.S. Patent No. 5,476,044 and claims 17, 19 and 22-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Boucher in view of Jarrott et al. (hereinafter "Jarrott"), U.S. Patent No. 4,632,031. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the personal interview, Boucher fails to disclose or suggest a priming device for a detonator, comprising timing means for timing the action of a firing element of a primer, an electrical power supply that provides a first power intensity to the timing means, and power generating means, the power generating means for generating, through a resistive circuit, a second power intensity sufficient to actuate the firing element upon expiration of a timing interval as determined by the timing means, the first power intensity from the power supply not being sufficient to actuate the firing element as recited in claim 14 and as similarly recited in claim 16.

As discussed during the personal interview, in contrast to Applicants' claims 14 and 16, Boucher discloses an internal low voltage periodic power source (12) that provides a low voltage power, and a transformer (14) comprising a secondary winding (144), which steps up the voltage from a primary winding (140) in order to provide a high voltage power to the arming circuit (16) (col. 5, lines 4-15 of Boucher). Boucher also discloses a timer (212) which is part of the firing circuit (20) and Boucher explicitly states that the timer (212) derives power from the output of the transformer (14), e.g., from the high voltage arm command signal generated by the rectifier (164). Thus, in sharp contrast to Applicants'

claim 14, which recites that the electrical power supply provides a first power intensity to the timing means, and Applicants' claim 16, which recites an electrical power supply means for timing the action of a firing element, in Boucher, the timer (212) derives its power from the transformer (14), which serves as a high voltage power source.

In addition, in contrast to Applicants' claim 14 which recites that the power generating means for generating through a resistive circuit a second power intensity sufficient to actuate the firing element upon expiration of a timing interval as determined by the timing means, and Applicants' claim 16 which recites that a power generating means generates through a resistive circuit a current intensity sufficient to actuate the firing element upon expiration of a timing interval, the transformer (14) of Boucher, which serves as the high voltage power generating means, produces the high voltage power independently of the operation of timer (212). Further, in Boucher, not only does the transformer (14), serving as the high voltage power source, generate its power independently of the operation of the timer (212), the timer (212) actually uses and depends on the generated high voltage power outputted by the transformer (14) to operate (col. 5, lines 42-44 of Boucher).

In addition, Applicants submitted that Jarrott fails to overcome the deficiencies of Boucher as discussed above, with regard to claim 16. For at least this reason, the combination of Boucher and Jarrott fails to disclose or suggest all the features of claims 17, 19 and 22-26, which depend from claim 16.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that Boucher, either alone or in combination with Jarrott, fails to disclose or suggest all the features of claims 14 and 16, as well as all the features of claims 15 and 30, and 17-29 and 31, which depend from claims 14 and 16, respectively. It is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 14-31 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryam M. Ipakchi

William P. Berridge
Registration No. 30,024

Maryam M. Ipakchi
Registration No. 51,835

WPB:MMI/ccs

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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